

2010

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$2.4 billion.
- The Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force launches StopFraud.gov, which combines resources from federal agencies on ways consumers can protect themselves from fraud and report fraudulent activity. It also includes information about the task force activities.
- President Obama signs the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2010, legislation that mandates that cruise ship personnel promptly report serious crime on board ships to both the FBI and the U.S. Coast Guard, requires the cruise industry to comply with certain security provisions, and requires ships to be equipped with a video surveillance system and maintain a log book to record reporting of deaths, missing individuals, thefts, and other crimes.
- President Obama signs the Tribal Law and Order Act, designed to increase Tribal law enforcement agencies' power to combat crime on reservations and to increase the accountability of federal agencies responsible for public safety in Indian Country. The Act requires federal prosecutors to keep data on criminal cases in Indian Country that they decline to prosecute, and to support prosecutions in Tribal court by sharing evidence. It also increases the maximum sentence that a Tribal court can impose from one to three years in prison, expands training of Tribal law enforcement officers on handling domestic violence and sexual assault cases, calls for standardized protocols for investigating and prosecuting sexual assault, and provides Tribal police greater access to criminal history databases.
- The Department of Justice releases its first National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, designed to: increase coordination among the nation's investigators; better train investigators and prosecutors; advance law enforcement's technological capabilities; and enhance research to inform decisions on

deterrence, incarceration, and monitoring. The strategy also includes a renewed commitment to public awareness and community outreach. The effort includes relaunching Project Safe Childhood, which marshals federal, state, Tribal, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute those who exploit children via the Internet, and to identify and rescue victims.

- President Obama signs the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, which includes a requirement that the Coast Guard submit an annual report to Congress on sexual assaults involving members of the Coast Guard.

2011

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total nearly \$2 billion.¹
- President Obama issues the first White House proclamation of National Stalking Awareness Month. The President calls on all Americans to learn to recognize the signs of stalking, acknowledge stalking as a serious crime, and urge victims not to be afraid to speak out or ask for help.
- President Obama signs the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, to provide health benefits for those who suffered health injuries from living or working near the site of the collapsed World Trade Center or for first responders and cleanup workers at any of the sites of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It also extends the 9/11 victims' compensation fund for five years to allow the filing of new claims related to health injuries associated with debris removal at the crash sites.
- President Obama signs the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, which strengthens the military's response to sexual assault by requiring the development of a comprehensive policy for sexual assault prevention and response, and issues standards to evaluate the

¹ Actual deposits total \$1,998,220,205.15.

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effectiveness of prevention and response programs in each military branch.

- OVC launches Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services, an initiative to expand the vision and impact of the crime victim services field.
- President Obama signs the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act, which requires the Peace Corps to develop a comprehensive sexual assault policy, create an Office of Victim Advocacy and a Sexual Assault Advisory Council, and institute volunteer training on sexual assault, risk reduction, and response.
- President Obama signs the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, which includes provisions to prevent and respond to military sexual assault. The Act ensures that members and dependents who are victims of sexual assault have access to legal assistance and sexual assault advocates, whether the victim chooses unrestricted or confidential reporting of the assault. The Act also calls for timely action on a sexual assault victim's application for consideration of a change of station or unit to reduce the possibility of retaliation for reporting the assault, requires the development of training in sexual assault prevention and response, and makes other related changes.
- Attorney General Eric H. Holder revises and reissues *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*, the standards for officers and employees of the Department of Justice investigative, prosecutorial, correctional, and parole components in the treatment of victims of and witnesses to crime. The revisions clarified DOJ's responsibilities to provide mandated rights and services enumerated in the Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA) and the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act (VRRRA) as well as other statutory requirements.
- Congress passes and President Obama signs the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011, removing the requirement of Senate confirmation for 170 executive positions, including that of the Office for Victims of Crime Director.
- Attorney General Eric H. Holder revises and reissues the *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance* to include guidelines that examine the unique requirements of vulnerable victims, including an update to address the scope of the federal child abuse reporting requirement under section 13031 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.
- The Bureau of Justice Statistics, with funding from the Office for Victims of Crime, embarks on a landmark three-year research study on the victimization of persons with disabilities who are in institutional settings.
- Attorney General Eric H. Holder releases a final rule to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse in confinement facilities, in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA). This landmark rule sets national standards for four categories of facilities: adult prisons and jails, lockups, community confinement facilities, and juvenile facilities. The rule is the first-ever federal effort to set standards aimed at protecting inmates in all such facilities at the federal, state, and local levels. Highlights include access to free forensic medical exams to all victims of sexual abuse and access to a victim advocate from a rape crisis center.
- The Unified Crime Report (UCR) definition of rape changes to include any gender of victim or perpetrator, as well as instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity (including due to the influence of drugs or alcohol or because of age). The UCR definition is used by the FBI to collect information from local law enforcement agencies about reported rapes.

2012

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$2.79 billion.

2013

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$8.95 billion.
- OVC releases the final report of its *Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services* initiative. The report creates a framework for addressing the challenges for the victim services field, making recommendations in four broad categories: support for the development of research; continued strategic planning in the victim assistance field; ensuring the statutory, policy, and programmatic flexibility necessary to address enduring and emerging crime victim issues; and expanding the field's capacity to meet the demands of the 21st century.
- Congress passes and President Obama signs the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA 2013). The measure expands protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender survivors, Native American and Native Alaskan survivors, and teens and young adults. The reauthorization allows grant funds to be used to develop and promote legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to violence against women. It adds stalking to several grant programs, including Grants to Encourage Arrests, and to campus safety provisions for the first time. It ensures that sexual assault victims do not incur the cost of forensic exams by requiring jurisdictions to provide exams to victims free of charge and without any out-of-pocket expense (rather than victims being reimbursed after paying the cost themselves, permissible previously). The law also, for the first time, provides that Tribes will be able to exercise their sovereign power to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence non-Indians who assault Indian spouses or dating partners or violate a protection order in Indian Country.
- Included in VAWA 2013 is the SAFER Act, which requires the U.S. Department of Justice to ensure that at least 75 percent of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant funds are used to analyze backlogged sexual assault kits and expand the capacity of labs to test such evidence. It allows Debbie Smith grants to be used to conduct audits of untested sexual assault kits in law enforcement custody, as well as untested kits held by the labs. It also requires that protocols for the effective processing of DNA evidence be established within 18 months.
- The Trafficking Victims Protection Act Reauthorization is also adopted as part of VAWA 2013. Along with reauthorizing important grant programs, the law makes it a crime to destroy, conceal, or confiscate someone's passport for more than 48 hours for the purpose of smuggling or controlling that person. It also requires that state plans for foster care and adoption assistance include prevention measures and responses to the trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel in August releases a memo directing the immediate implementation of various measures to strengthen the military's sexual assault prevention and response programs. Victim-related measures include creating a program to provide legal representation to sexual assault victims throughout the justice process; providing commanders with options to assign or transfer a service member accused of committing sexual assault; and changing the Manual for Courts-Martial to allow victims to give input to the post-trial action phase of courts-martial.
- OVC releases updated regulations for the VOCA Assistance formula grants. The new regulations are designed to increase the effectiveness of such funding, through increased flexibility, a reduction in the administrative burden relating to the funding, broadening the types of services that can be funded, drawing attention to previously underserved populations of victims, and supporting the training of volunteers who provide direct services to victims.

2014

- The Crime Victims' Fund deposits total \$3.59 billion in Fiscal Year 2014.
- President Obama signs the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014, which contains numerous reforms to address sexual assault in the military, including: requiring independent review of decisions not to refer charges for trial and limiting command discretion to modify court-martial findings; removing the statute of limitations on sexual assault; creating a Special Victims' Counsel to provide independent legal assistance to sexual assault victims; implementing anti-retaliation policies for victims who report sexual assault; and allowing victims to apply for a permanent change of station or unit transfer.
- The White House announces the release of the *Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States*. The plan outlines steps federal agencies will take to identify all victims of human trafficking and implement a victim services network that is comprehensive, trauma-informed, and responsive.
- In January 2014, the White House Council on Women and Girls releases its report, "Rape and Sexual Assault: A Renewed Call to Action." This report analyzes the most recent data on rape and sexual assault in the United States. It identifies who is at risk of victimization, examines the cost of sexual violence (to both survivors and communities), and outlines the criminal justice response. The report describes the steps that the Administration has taken to combat rape and sexual assault and provides recommendations for further action.
- Under a provision of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA 2013), the Department of Justice selects three American Indian Tribes for a pilot program to extend criminal jurisdiction in Indian country. VAWA 2013 recognizes that Tribes have a right to exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction over certain defendants, regardless of their Indian or non-Indian status, who commit acts of domestic or dating violence in Indian country. This provision takes effect in 2015, but the pilot project allows selected Tribes to begin exercising special jurisdiction sooner.
- President Obama issues a Presidential Memorandum to establish the "White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault." The task force has begun to share best practices to increase transparency, enforcement, public awareness, and interagency coordination to prevent violence and support victims of sexual assault on college campuses. In April, the task force released its first report "Not Alone," which provides recommendations to school administrations.
- President Obama signs the Kiliah Davenport Child Protection Act of 2013. This legislation directs the U.S. Attorney General to issue a state-by-state report on child abuse laws within six months, with a particular focus on penalties for cases of severe child abuse. The law also amends the federal criminal code to enhance penalties for child abuse committed by habitual offenders.
- President Obama launched the My Brother's Keeper initiative to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and to ensure that all young people can reach their full potential. The initiative comprises six milestones, the last one being "Keeping Kids on Track and Giving Them Second Chances." A key goal of this milestone is to address the overrepresentation of African American and Latino men in the criminal and juvenile justice systems and reduce the rates of violence and victimization for all young people. All children should be safe from violent crime.
- Congress appropriates funding to implement some of the recommendations in *Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services*. For the first time ever, OVC made awards to support initiatives such as capacity building at the state level and access to services for American citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents

at the national and international level through innovative technology.

- President Obama signs the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014. This Act directs the Secretary of State to report annually to Congress on international child abduction cases and ensure that U.S. diplomatic and consular missions properly report these abduction cases. The Secretary of State will also establish Memoranda of Understanding with countries that are unlikely to join the Hague Abduction Convention and advise the President on countries that do not cooperate in or fail to resolve abduction cases.
- On August 8, 2014, President Obama signs the Victims of Child Abuse Reauthorization Act of 2013. This Act authorizes appropriations for children's advocacy centers and the development of multidisciplinary child abuse investigation and prosecution programs. Additionally, the Act authorizes appropriations to national organizations that provide technical assistance and training to attorneys and professionals working with the criminal prosecution of child abuse cases.
- President Obama is joined by Vice President Biden, leaders from institutions of higher education, media companies, grassroots organizations, and celebrities to launch the "It's on Us" public service campaign, which includes a personal commitment to help keep men and women safe from sexual assault. It is a pledge not to be a bystander, but to be part of the solution, to recognize that non-consensual sex is sexual assault, to identify situations in which sexual assault may occur, to intervene in situations where consent has not or cannot be given, and to create an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported. It's on Us raises awareness about the problem of sexual assault on college campuses and invites everyone to be part of the solution.
- President Obama signs the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act on

September 29, 2014. The Act requires states to develop policies and procedures to identify, document, screen, and determine appropriate services for children in foster care who are victims of, or at risk of, sex trafficking. The Act also mandates data collection and reporting by states and establishes a National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the U.S. to advise on policies to improve the nation's response to the sex trafficking of children and youth.

2015

- The Crime Victims' Fund deposits total \$2.64 billion in Fiscal Year 2015.
- President Obama signs the Fiscal Year 2015 Omnibus Appropriations Act, which releases \$2.36 billion from VOCA, almost quadruple the amount of funding released in 2014.
- President Obama signs the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act on May 29, 2015. This legislation contains a variety of provisions aimed at improving the response to victims of trafficking, including: establishing the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund, providing grant funds to enhance services for runaway and homeless victims, creating the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, and improving training for law enforcement, health professionals, and other service providers who work with trafficking victims. The Act also expressly recognizes child pornography production as a form of human trafficking.
- The White House releases the "Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States: Fiscal Years 2013 - 2014." This status report documents the progress of federal agencies during fiscal years 2013 - 2014 to ensure that all victims of human trafficking in the United States are identified and have access to the services they need to recover. OVC serves as a co-chair in the Federal Strategic Action Plan's development, along with the Department of Health

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and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families and the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign.

- The White House convenes the 2015 White House Conference on Aging. Held once each decade to reflect on issues affecting America's seniors, the Conference includes a focus on elder justice to address elder financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect, and announces numerous federal efforts involving research, reporting, training, outreach, and more.
- The U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) announces the launch of "The Center for Changing Our Campus Culture," an online clearinghouse of resources related to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campus. This website provides the latest information, materials, and resources for campus administrators, faculty, and staff, as well as campus and community law enforcement, victim service providers, students, parents, and other key stakeholders.
- In coordination with the FBI's Office for Victim Assistance and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism, OVC announces the release of "Helping Victims of Mass Violence and Terrorism: Planning, Response, Recovery, and Resources." This online toolkit is designed to help jurisdictions implement a comprehensive, victim-centered response to incidents of mass violence by developing victim assistance protocols, addressing resources gaps, and creating and maintaining partnerships with stakeholders.
- The White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault releases a Resource Guide to support students, faculty, administrators, and communities around the country to prevent sexual violence and improve the response to violence at colleges and universities. The Resource Guide compiles guidance, tools, model policies and procedures, training and technical assistance, funding opportunities, and public messaging materials. The Task Force also releases a sample memorandum of understanding to assist campuses and law enforcement agencies in working together to protect students and address the needs of sexual assault survivors.
- OVC, in partnership with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, releases the Supporting Male Survivors of Violence Demonstration Initiative, designed to enhance and support trauma-informed systems of care for male crime victims and, in particular, boys and young men of color. The initiative seeks to strengthen victim service providers' knowledge and skills to produce innovative programs and practices that foster a better understanding among criminal and juvenile justice systems, and guide service providers regarding the rights and needs of these boys and young men.
- The U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launch a federal Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium to provide national training, technical assistance, and resource development on domestic violence and housing. The Consortium supports national training and technical assistance awards to develop resources and foster increased collaboration among domestic violence and homeless service providers to better address the critical housing needs of victims of domestic violence and their children.
- On November 25, 2015, President Obama signs the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. This Act provides Special Victims Counsel (SVC) to victims of sexual assault, including non-civilian Department of Defense (DOD) employees. The Act also requires standardized training for SVCs, anti-retaliation and privacy protections for victims, and victim notification of the availability of an SVC. The Act also directs DOD to develop a plan to

improve its response to sexual assaults against male employees.

- On December 15, 2015, the U.S. Department of Justice releases guidance on "Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias in Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence." This guidance is accompanied by a roundtable discussion and report, which provide recommendations from key stakeholders on improving the law enforcement response to victims of sexual violence, especially in vulnerable populations.
- President Obama signs the Consolidated Appropriations Act on December 18, 2015. This legislation reauthorizes the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which provides health benefits and compensation to individuals who were injured or killed in September 11 rescue and recovery efforts and includes the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund as well. The Appropriations Act also establishes the Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund to pay civil judgments against certain foreign state sponsors of terrorism.

2016

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$1.48 billion in Fiscal Year 2016.
- On January 4, 2016, the White House announces a set of executive actions to address gun violence. Those actions include expanding and bolstering the background check system to cover certain sales that take place online and at gun shows, supporting research into firearm safety technology, and providing more funding for mental health treatment, FBI staff, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms and Explosives agents.
- The Bureau of Justice Statistics releases the "Campus Climate Survey Validation Study" in January 2016. This report presents the results of a nine-school assessment of undergraduate sexual victimization, including estimates of the prevalence of sexual assault, rape, and sexual battery during the 2014-15 academic year.
- The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) of the U.S. Department of Justice launches an initiative to reduce language barriers for underserved victims. The two-pronged approach addresses training and technical assistance for victim service providers and enhances OVC's ability to incorporate language access into its programs.
- The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) releases the "National Protocol for Sexual Abuse Medical Forensic Examinations, Pediatric" (Pediatric SAFE Protocol) on April 28, 2016. This protocol provides specific guidance on forensic medical examinations and outlines the need for a coordinated community response to sexual assault investigations.
- On May 5, 2016, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, publishes its research report, "Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men," which examines the prevalence of intimate partner and sexual violence and the impact of such violence on local communities. The study found that 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native adults have been victims of violence.
- President Obama signs the Native American Children's Safety Act on June 3, 2016. This Act provides protections for Native American children in foster care, including requiring that Tribes establish systems for criminal background checks and accessing tribal and state registries before placements.
- On June 14, 2016, the White House convenes the first United State of Women summit to examine issues of gender equality, including violence against women.
- The Office for Victims of Crime publishes a final rule on July 8, 2016, to implement the victim assistance

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formula grant program authorized by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984. This rule codifies and updates existing program guidelines to reflect statutory and policy changes since 1984. The final rule provides greater flexibility for state use of VOCA funds to support a continuum of victim services, including comprehensive legal assistance, transitional housing, relocation, and forensic interviews and medical examinations. It also clarifies support for underserved victims and eliminates a previous restriction against using VOCA funds to serve victims in detention and correctional facilities.

- The U.S. Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) announces more than \$3.2 million to help communities prevent domestic violence homicides. These funds will go to programs that seek to improve the criminal justice system's response to victims and that provide technical assistance and training. OVW also announces the addition of Miami and Winnebago Counties in Illinois as replication sites for the evidence-based Lethality Assessment Program model, which encourages victims to access domestic violence support and shelter services.
- The U.S. Department of Justice releases the "2016 National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction." The strategy provides a comprehensive assessment of the nature and scope of the crimes against children, including child pornography, sextortion, live streaming of child sexual abuse, child sex trafficking, child sex tourism, and sex offense registry violations. The report also includes an section on the unique challenges faced in Indian Country. ★